

## *Briefly About . . .*

### **David (Davy) Hern and Isabel**

Both Davy Hern and Isabel were inherited from the estate of John Wayles. They had twelve children. When Thomas Jefferson's slaves were auctioned in 1827, Davy Hern with some of his children and grandchildren were bought and separated.

#### **David (Davy) Hern** (b 1755)

- skilled carpenter, wagoner, miller
- could read directions
- built everything from cabins and farm buildings to farm equipment and wagons
- from 1792–1793, Davy was hired by a local carpenter, Benjamin Colvard
- on the crew that blasted rock in building the canal at Milton
- Davy worked at Jefferson's gristmill near Milton as a miller for a short time

#### **Isabel (Hern)** (b 1755)

- domestic servant, farm laborer
- in 1787, the birth of her daughter, Edith, and her subsequent postpartum illness prevented her from being the slave to travel with Mary Jefferson to Paris. Instead, Sally Hemings was selected to accompany her.
- started out as a domestic servant, but later was a farm laborer

#### **James Hern** **(Foreman Jim)** (b 03 Mar 1776)

- foreman, supervisor of workers
- son of Davy Hern and Isabel
- married a slave owned by Gabriel Lilly (an overseer at Monticello from 1800–1805). When Lilly left, Thomas Jefferson purchased this pregnant slave and her two sons for £180 (\$600). Her name was Lucretia (Cretia). They would have ten children. Monticello was the enslaved family's home until 1824. At that time, they were transferred to Poplar Forest.

#### **Moses Hern** (b 30 Nov 1779)

- nailery worker, blacksmith
- son of Davy Hern and Isabel
- in 1807, Thomas Jefferson purchased Moses's wife, Mary, and their sons from Randolph Lewis, who was moving to Kentucky. Moses had made earlier requests for this purchase, however, he had been put off due to Lewis's financial concerns. In order, for the family to be together prior to this point, they had to travel the six miles between residences.